

DDRS ADVISORY COUNCIL
10-6-10

PRESENT: Connie Dillman-Tangram Richard Wherry – Parent Chris St. Paul-IPMG
 Dawn Downer, First Steps John Hill – DOE Betty Williams-Self Advocates of Indiana
 Mark Flegge-AWS Teresa Grossi, IIDC

CHAIRPERSON: Julia Holloway
FACILITATOR: Nancy Zemaitis
RECORDER: Robin M. Stearns, Administrative Secretary – BQIS

ISSUE	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Review of Previous Meeting Minutes	The minutes from the September Advisory Council meeting were distributed prior to the meeting via e-mail	<p>Minutes from the 9-1-10 meeting were approved as written.</p> <p>In the future Beth Werner, will be distributing the meeting minutes and agenda.</p> <p>The Advisory Council minutes will now be posted on the website.</p>
First Steps	<p>Nancy introduced Dawn Downer, Director of First Steps. The First Steps System is a family-centered, locally-based, coordinated system that provides early intervention services to infants and young children with disabilities or who are developmentally vulnerable. First Steps brings together families and professionals from education, health and social service agencies by coordinating locally available services. First Steps is working to give Indiana's children and their families the widest possible array of early intervention resources. Families who are eligible to participate in Indiana's First Steps System include children ages birth to three years, who are experiencing developmental delays and/or have a diagnosed condition that has a high probability of resulting in developmental delay. We currently have three (3) full-time staff and 10 regional offices that serve as intake sights. The First Steps statewide profile report from 7/1/09 thru 6/30/10 was distributed for review and discussion. First Steps currently serves 21,291 children. Due to recent economic conditions, First Steps is facing a 15 million dollar deficit. Tough decisions are being made and proposals have been developed to assist in streamlining the available dollars in order to be more effective. Julia has asked that this group put on their "thinking" hats for the constituent group that you represent as to how to get more insurance companies on board for covering needed services. Currently Anthem pays for PT, OT, Speech and Audiology Services. Suggestions from the group included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find out what is being denied by the insurance companies – is there a trend? 	<p>The council recommended taking a systemic approach and addresses the most "common" reason for denial. It was also suggested they work with the Indiana Insurance Commission on this.</p>

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	<p>Address the reasons for denial.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure that the coding is correct, training for clinicians who are inputting might be needed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ ID the child code better, i.e. autism • What is the incentive to have the insurance company pay (incentive to vendor – impacts whether or not they send the required reports; change the contract to include whatever issues DDRS is trying to address, i.e. the vendor MUST send the reports). • Further explore reasons why insurance companies are not paying for developmental therapy. • Consider hiring a third party to review bills/codes/reports, etc (or an internal, centralized, billing unit). • Invest in an electronic system instead of paper – cost of the system may be made up by reimbursements. • Dialogue with insurance companies who do not pay. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have the Governor’s office speak with the State Insurance Agency, i.e. why does one insurance agency pay when another does not? • Target the companies that do not pay – why don’t they pay, find out the issue then hopefully it can be addressed. • Talk to the insurance company that does pay – use those reasons in discussions with other entities. • File a complaint with the insurance commission. • Talk to the Autism Commission – what did they do to convince the insurance agency to pay – use similar strategies. • Have more control over the billing through automation. The planned case management system that is in process could include a billing function. 	
Status of DD Individuals Moving from SOF’s	DDRS is working in partnership with DMH to transition individuals with a DD diagnosis from the state operated facilities into the community. State match funding will follow the individual into DDRS services. Additional waiver slots have been requested.	Informational.
DDRS Reports	The September 2010 data was distributed for review and discussion. The graphs show comparison data for the federal fiscal year end. VR is currently on a performance improvement plan. The current focus is looking at people with developmental disabilities in segregated settings and moving them into integrated employment. DDRS is working to establish demonstration sites in four (4) areas: Evansville, Kokomo, South Bend and Bloomington. VR will be looking at counties in order to determine baseline data.	DDRS will be working with the local communities of the four (4) counties involved to ensure things are going well and are on track.

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Department of Education	A total of 170,000 follow-up surveys were distributed to everyone receiving services. To date, approximately 15,000 has been returned.	John Hill will share this information with the Council at the November meeting.
Council Members Request	Several council members have requested the meeting handouts be distributed prior to the meeting in order they have a opportunity to review them beforehand and be better prepared to discuss them.	Nancy will follow-up on this request for the appropriate action.
Next Advisory Council Meeting	The next Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday November 3rd at 10:00 a.m.	Informational.

Handouts:

- VRS Performance Standards and Indictors Report-September 2010
- DDRS Monthly CIRS Report (9/1/10 – 9/30/10)
- First Step Profile Report Field Definitions
- First Steps Indiana Statewide Profile Report (7/1/09 – 6/30/10)